

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

KIRK, JAMES J. 1979. *Thamnophis ordinoides*.

***Thamnophis ordinoides* (Baird and Girard)  
Northwestern garter snake**

*Tropidonotus ordinoides* Baird and Girard, 1852:176. Type-locality, "Puget Sound," Washington. Holotype lost.

*Eutainia leptocephala* Baird and Girard, 1853:29. Type-locality, "Puget Sound, Or." (Washington). Syntypes, U.S. Nat. Mus. 961a-c, sexes unknown, collected by U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1841 (not examined by author).

*Eutainia ordinoides*: Baird and Girard, 1853:33.

*Eutaenia leptocephala*: Girard, 1858:151.

*Eutainia cooperi* Kennicott in Cooper, 1860:296. Type-locality, "Cathlapoot'l valley" and "Willopah valley," Washington. Holotype not designated.

*Tropidonotus sirtalis* var. *leptocephala*: Jan, 1863:69.

*Tropidonotus leptocephala*: Boulenger, 1893:201.

*Thamnophis leptocephala*: Van Denburgh, 1897:206.

*Thamnophis leptocephala olympia* Meek in Meek and Elliot, 1899:235. Type-locality, "Olympic Mountains," restricted to Port Angeles, Clallam County, Washington by Marx (1958). Holotype, Field Mus. Natur. Hist. 486, sex, collector, and date of collection unknown (not examined by author).

*Thamnophis rubristriata* Meek in Meek and Elliot, 1899:235. Type-locality, "Olympic Mountains," restricted to Port Angeles, Clallam County, Washington by Marx (1958). Holotype, Field Mus. Natur. Hist. 485, sex, collector, and date of collection unknown (not examined by author).

*Eutaenia sirtalis leptocephala*: Brown, 1903:295.

*Thamnophis ordinoides*: Ruthven, 1908:147.

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION. A small species of *Thamnophis* in which the snout-vent length is 348–695 mm in adult females, 293–565 mm in adult males, and 115–149 mm in newborn young. The maximum number of dorsal scale rows is usually 17, but occasionally 19. There usually are 7 supralabials and 8 infralabials. Females have 134–159 ventrals and 49–72 subcaudals; males have 137–162 ventrals and 56–82 subcaudals. Color and color pattern vary substantially. The dorsal ground color is usually some shade of brown, olive, gray, or black. A yellow, orange, red, or blue mid-dorsal stripe usually is present, and a yellowish or white lateral stripe sometimes is present. Dark spots and light flecks may occur between the stripes. The venter usually is paler than the dorsal ground color, but may be suffused with dark pigment or with red.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Ruthven (1908), Van Denburgh and Slevin (1918), Van Denburgh (1922), and Fitch (1940) described the morphology in detail based on specimens from throughout much of the range. Hebard (1950, 1951c) described color, color pattern, and size of specimens from the Puget Sound area. Logier (1932) described scutellation of specimens from British Columbia. Fox (1948) described color, color pattern, and scutellation in the southern part of the range. Fitch (1936) described variation in dorsal stripe color in southern Oregon. Stewart (1968) gave data on size of Oregon specimens. Carl (1960) mentioned an albino, and Hart (1934) described a melanistic specimen. Cope (1900) and Brown and Slater (1939) described limited numbers of specimens. Johnson (1947) speculated on the ontogeny of the variable color pattern. Norman (1978) described what he concluded was a *T. ordinoides* × *T. elegans* hybrid.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. See Van Denburgh and Slevin (1918), Fitch (1940), Hebard (1951c), and Leviton (1972) for black and white photographs, Shaw and Campbell (1974) for a color photograph, Stebbins (1966) for a color drawing of the head and part of the body and a black and white drawing of the color pattern, and Cope (1900), Carl (1960), Fox (1948), and Stebbins (1954) for black and white drawings.

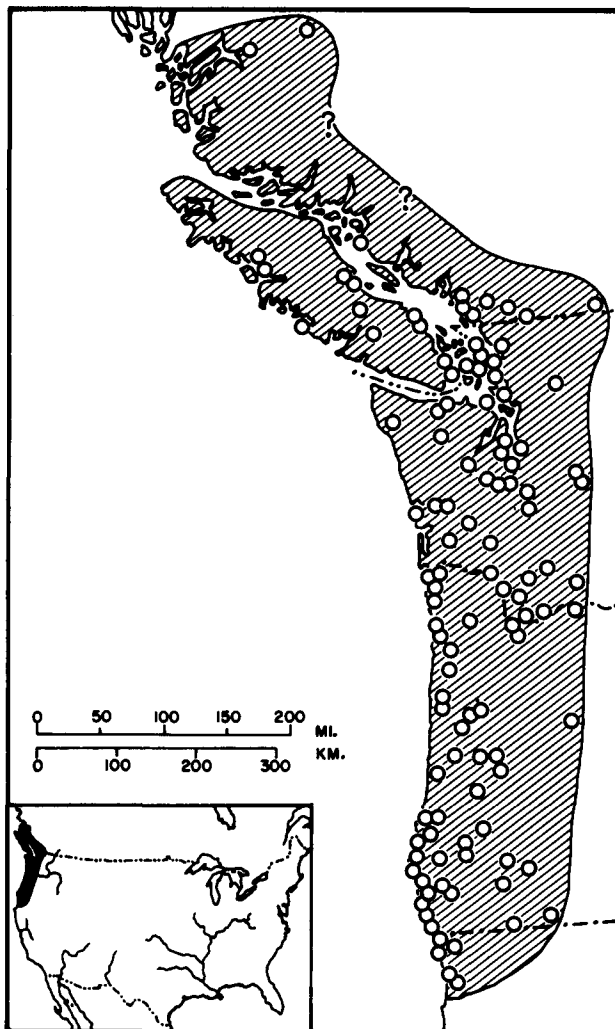
• DISTRIBUTION. *Thamnophis ordinoides* occurs in southwestern British Columbia, western Washington, western Oregon, and extreme northwestern California, at elevations from sea-level to above 5000 feet (1500 meters) (Stewart, 1965). The northern part of the range in British Columbia has not been well delineat-

ed. The range extends east of the Cascade Mountains in southern Washington (Slater, 1963).

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Fitch (1940) published the most recent comprehensive treatment. Stewart (1968) summarized the known biology and provided new data on habitat, behavior, activity, reproduction, and parasites. Fitch (1940, 1941) and Hebard (1951a) described the habitat. Fitch (1936, 1940, 1941), Carl (1960), Hebard (1951a), and Fox (1952) described food. Fitch (1940, 1941), Hebard (1951a, 1951b), Fox (1952), and Stewart (1964, 1965, 1968) described various aspects of behavior. Fox (1948), Hebard (1951b), Wright and Wright (1957), Stewart (1965), and Fitch (1970) published data on reproduction. Stewart (1965) gave data on metabolic rate. Fain (1962), Arthur and Snow (1968), and Clifford et al. (1970) described parasites.

• NOMENCLATURE HISTORY. Baird and Girard described *Tropidonotus ordinoides* based on material from Puget Sound. Their description of *Eutainia ordinoides*, based at least in part on California specimens, is inconsistent both with their description of *T. ordinoides* and with presently recognized *ordinoides*. Their description of *E. leptocephala*, based on specimens from Puget Sound, is consistent with their earlier description of *T. ordinoides* and with presently recognized *ordinoides*. Fitch (1940) suggested that in 1853 Baird and Girard "reapplied" the name *ordinoides* to a California race and applied another name, *lep-*



MAP. Circles indicate published localities. Type-locality is imprecise and is not plotted. Question marks indicate uncertain distributional limits.

*tocephala*, to the Puget Sound race. The identity of *Tropidonotus ordinoides* cannot be verified because the description is too vague and the holotype apparently is lost (Brown, 1903; Ruthven, 1908; Fitch, 1940; Cochran, 1961). A neotype should be designated when *Thamnophis ordinoides* is treated in a taxonomic revision.

Ruthven (1908) concluded that *ordinoides* and *leptocephala* were synonyms and that *ordinoides* was senior. Van Denburgh and Slevin (1918) included as subspecies of *Thamnophis ordinoides* forms that now are recognized as *T. ordinoides*, *T. elegans*, and *T. couchi*. Mayr (1941) proposed restricting *T. ordinoides* to include only the subspecies *ordinoides* and *atratus*. Fox (1948) showed that *ordinoides* and *atratus* are not conspecific; Fitch (1948) concurred.

An incomplete citation in Cooper (1860) indicates that another description of *E. cooperi* by Kennicott appeared in 1859. That description apparently never was published.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** Baird and Girard (1852) observed longitudinal rows of black spots between the stripes of their specimens. These spots reminded them of *Tropidonotus ordinatus* (= *Thamnophis s. sirtalis*) and they apparently intended the name *ordinoides* to mean "ordinatus-like."

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